

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a request from a first computer system for identification of a second computer system;
retrieving a processor number that identifies a processor of the second computer system;
encrypting the processor number with a key associated with the first computer system to produce a hash value; and
providing the hash value to the first computer system in response to the request.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
executing a processor instruction; and
retrieving the number in response to the execution of the instruction.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving the key from the first computer system.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the key indicates an address of a web site.

6. (Previously Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an interface adapted to:

receive a request from a computer system for identification of the apparatus, and

furnish a hash value that identifies the apparatus to the computer system; and

a processor coupled to the interface and adapted to:

encrypt a processor number that identifies the processor [apparatus] with a key associated with the computer system to produce the hash value.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the processor comprises:

a memory adapted to store microcode for performing the encryption; and

a control unit coupled to the memory and adapted to execute the microcode to perform the encryption.

9. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

interact with the interface to receive the key from the computer system.

10. (Previously Amended) An article comprising a storage medium readable by a first processor-based system, the storage medium storing instructions to cause a processor to:

receive a key from another processor-based system for identifying said another

processor-based system,

determine whether the key is valid,

based on the identification, selectively authorize encryption of an identifier that identifies the first system with the key to produce a hash value.

11. (Original) The article of claim 10, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the processor to:

use an address of said another system to determine whether the key is valid.

12. (Original) The article of claim 11, wherein the key indicates an URL address.

13. (Original) The article of claim 10, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the processor to:

execute an instruction to cause the processor to subsequently use the key to produce the hash value.

14. (Original) The article of claim 10, wherein the identifier comprises a processor number.

15. (Original) A microprocessor comprising:
an instruction unit adapted to indicate when the instruction unit receives an instruction that requests an identifier that identifies the microprocessor;
an execution unit coupled to the instruction unit and adapted to, in response to the

indication from the instruction unit, encrypt a key with the identifier to produce a hash value; and a bus interface unit coupled to the execution unit and adapted to furnish an indication of the hash value to external pins of the microprocessor.

16. (Previously Amended) The microprocessor of claim 15, wherein the execution unit comprises:

a control unit; and

a memory coupled to the control unit and storing microcode to cause the control unit to use the key and the identifier to produce the hash value.

17. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 15, wherein the identifier comprises a processor number.

18. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 15, wherein the execution unit is adapted to use a one way hash function to produce the hash value.

19. (Original) The microprocessor claim 15, wherein the execution unit is adapted to use a non-commutative hash function to produce the hash value.

20. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 15, wherein the execution unit is adapted to use a collision free hash function to produce the hash value.

21. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein the processor number

identifies a microprocessor of the second computer system.

22. (Previously Added) The method of claim 21, wherein the processor number uniquely identifies the microprocessor.

23. (Previously Added) The computer system of claim 6, wherein the processor number identifies a microprocessor of the apparatus.

24. (Previously Added) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the processor number uniquely identifies the microprocessor.

25. (Previously Added) The article of claim 14, wherein the processor number identifies a microprocessor of the first system.

26. (Previously Added) The article of claim 25, wherein the processor number uniquely identifies the microprocessor.

27. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing a request to a second computer system for the second computer system to provide an identification of the second computer system;
receiving a hash value from the second computer system, the hash value being generated by encryption of a key associated with ~~the~~ a first computer system with an identifier that identifies the second computer system; and

using the hash value to identify information associated with a user of the second computer system, the information being stored in a database maintained by the first computer system.

28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 27, wherein the identifier that identifies the second computer system comprises a processor number.

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 27, wherein the key indicates an address of a web site of the first computer system.

30. (Previously Added) The method of claim 27, wherein the first computer system is located at a remote location relative to the second computer system.

31. (Previously Added) An article comprising a storage medium readable by a first processor-based system, the storage medium storing instructions to cause a processor of the first processor-based computer system to:

provide a request to a second computer system for the second computer system to provide an identification of the second computer system;

receive a hash value from the second computer system, the hash value being generated by encryption of a key associated with the first computer system with an identifier that identifies the second computer system; and

using the hash value to identify information associated with a user of the second computer system, the information being stored in a database maintained by the first computer

system.

32. (Previously Added) The article of claim 31, wherein the identifier that identifies the second computer system comprises a processor number.

33. (Previously Added) The article of claim 31, wherein the key indicates an address of a web site of the first computer system.

34. (Previously Added) The article of claim 31, wherein the first computer system is located at a remote location relative to the second computer system.

35. (Previously Added) A system comprising:

a database; and

a first computer coupled to the database to:

provide a request to a second computer for the second computer to provide an identification of the second computer,

receive a hash value from the second computer, the hash value being generated by encryption of a key associated with the first computer with an identifier that identifies the second computer, and

use the hash value to identify information associated with a user of the second computer, the information being stored in the database.

36. (Previously Added) The system of claim 35, wherein the identifier that identifies the second computer comprises a processor number.

37. (Previously Added) The system of claim 35, wherein the key indicates an address of a web site of the first computer.

38. (Previously Added) The system of claim 35, wherein the first computer is located at a remote location relative to the second computer.